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2 February 1955

The Honorable Arthur S. Flemming
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

Mr. Dulles has turned over to me as Chairman of the Watch Committee your letter of 3 January requesting general guidance on the type of material your organization might furnish the IAC Watch Committee under the provisions of NSC 5433 (NSC Action 1195-b).

The National Indications Center (NIC), the inter-agency staff established to support the IAC Watch Committee, is now located in its new quarters at BC-956 in the Pentagon. Information produced by your Office would normally be made available to the Director of The NIC [redacted] for use by the Watch Committee.

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The Watch Committee has been informed of your request for guidance and the Director of the NIC has already been in contact with Mr. Alexander of your organization. It appears to me that since the NIC is probably not as familiar as is desirable with your organization and what it could provide the Watch Committee, the most useful form of guidance in this connection would result from a series of such contacts between members of the Watch Committee and the NIC and various officials in your organization. I would suggest, therefore, that the Director of the NIC call you and arrange to brief you on its functions and needs and then, under your guidance, set up contacts with the appropriate offices.

There is no particular sensitivity about the existence of the Watch Committee or the National Indications Center nor about the general nature of their responsibilities. Hence instructions as to supporting this work within your organization can be given to all appropriately cleared personnel.

OSD review(s) completed.

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Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Office of the Director

3 January 1955

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The transmission of the memorandum by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council on the transmittal of information to the IAC Watch Committee, in reference to NSC Action 1195-B raises a question as to the sort of information that the Office of Defense Mobilization and its agencies should bring to the attention of the IAC Watch Committee.

In general terms we are, of course, familiar with the duties of that Committee in accordance with terms of reference of the Watch Committee as laid down by you on May 11. On the other hand, many of the component parts of the Office of Defense Mobilization which might be able to produce useful information would be unaware of what to be on the look-out for and whether or not it would be useful for the Watch Committee to send it on for screening and assessment.

If you think there is any sort of a useful indication that I could give to those Assistant Directors of the Office of Defense Mobilization who are dealing, for instance, with telecommunications, materials, and the like, I should be very glad to have your guidance.

I should also be glad to have any guidance that you may wish to give me with respect to how far down the line in the organization, like the Office of Defense Mobilization, "need-to-know" principle should apply in informing members of their staffs about the existence of the Watch Committee and its functions.

May I suggest that in the matters of East-West trade direct channels should be established with Assistant Secretary Samuel W. Anderson of the Department of Commerce for matters that would originate in his area.

I do not, myself, anticipate that there will be any large volume of material that should be developed by the Office of Defense Mobilization for transmission to the Watch Committee but I am a little uncertain as to what your own policy guidance in the matter is as to what would be considered useful and relevant information, since we are not an agency which in the normal course of events has any particular intelligence functions.

Very sincerely,

Signed
/s/ Arthur S. Flemming, Director

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